

LISTING OF CLAIMS – with added language underlined and deleted language having strike-through markings

1. (Currently Amended) A container for the temporary storage of clean and sanitary pacifiers, teething devices, small toys, and other small baby-related objects that in a baby's or child's possession are frequently drooled on, dropped on the ground, covered with food, and/or otherwise in need of cleaning prior to being returned to the baby or child, said container comprising:

a substantially cylindrical non-stretching main body having a hollow interior, a height dimension, a bottom portion, a top portion, a top opening with a minimum circumference configured to allow insertion therethrough of a large adult male hand, said main body also having at least one rearwardly-positioned vertically extending structural strip integral to said main body that is configured and positioned to prevent collapse of said top opening, said at least one vertically extending strip extending substantially across said height dimension, at least one horizontally extending structural strip integral to said main body and at a minimum substantially encircling said main body, said at least one horizontally extending strip structurally joined to said at least one vertically extending strip; with ~~being made in part from~~ open-weave material configured to allow air circulation through said main body adjacent to and adjoining said at least one horizontally extending strip and said at least one vertically extending strip, and further with said open-weave material forming a majority of said main body between said top and bottom portions thereof, with all materials used for construction of said main body being flexible, soft-textured, and washable while at the same time having a sufficient thickness

dimension that enables said top opening in said main body to remain open at all times for prompt and direct user access to contents stored within said hollow interior, and further with said strips and said top portion being made from non-open-weave materials; and

quick-release fastening means adapted to temporarily and securely attach said main body and any contents therein to a supporting structure conveniently situated to a commonly used child care location, said quick-release fastening means being connected to said main body so that any sanitary baby-related objects placed therein remain sanitary, and are readily and directly accessible to people caring for babies and small children for prompt delivery to a baby or child in need of one for comfort.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said quick-release fastening means is selected from a group consisting of straps permanently attached to and structurally integral with said main body as vertically extending strips, elongated straps, detachable straps configured for quick-release connection to said at least one vertically extending strip, two-part hook-and-pile fasteners, and snaps.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2 comprising at least one detachable strap and wherein said at least one detachable strap comprises an upper end, and further wherein said quick-release fastening means comprises at least one quick-release two-part first fastener configured for connecting said at least one detachable strap to said ~~main body~~ at least one vertically extending strip, and wherein said quick-release fastening means further comprises at least one second quick-release two-part fastener configured for securely forming said upper end of said at least one strap into a closed loop that is usable in repeatedly attaching and reattaching said main body to baby and child supporting devices and other objects near to child care

locations that are configured for securely supporting said main body by said at least one closed loop.

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3 wherein said main body has a back surface ~~with~~ and at least one vertically extending structural strip of non-open-weave material integral with said back surface, and further wherein said at least one quick-release two-part first fastener configured for connecting said at least one strap to said main body secures said at least one strap to said at least one vertically extending strip.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3 wherein said main body has a back surface and at least one vertically extending structural strip of non-open-weave material integral with said back surface, and further wherein said quick-release fastening means comprise: at least one quick-release two-part fastener a first part of which is secured to said ~~back surface~~ at least one vertically extending strip, with the second part of said at least one quick-release two-part fastener ~~being~~ attached to a support surface so that said main body via said at least one vertically extending strip is attachable directly to said support surface without the use of any straps.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said main body has a back surface and at least one vertically extending structural strip of non-open-weave material integral with said back surface, and further wherein said quick-release fastening means comprise: at least one quick-release two-part fastener a first part of which is secured to said ~~back surface~~ at least one vertically extending strip, with the second part of said at least one quick-release two-part fastener ~~being~~ attached to a support surface so that said main body via said at least one vertically extending strip is attachable directly to said support surface without the use of straps.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising markings selected from a group consisting of informational markings and design markings.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 ~~further comprising at least one horizontally extending strip of non-open-weave material~~ 3 comprising at least two detachable straps and wherein said quick-release fastening means is adapted for connecting each said strap to itself to form a loop to attach said main body to a horizontally extending structure, also adapted for connecting said straps to one another in an overlapping configuration to attach said main body to a vertically extending structure, and further adapted for connecting said main body directly to a vertically extending planar support structure without the use of said straps.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8 further comprising markings placed on said at least one horizontally extending strip of ~~closely woven non-open-weave~~ material and wherein said markings are selected from a group consisting of informational markings and design markings.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 further comprising a bottom surface made from materials selected from a group consisting of non-open-weave material and open-weave material.

11. (Currently Amended) A container for the temporary storage of clean and sanitary pacifiers, teething devices, small toys, and other small baby-related accessories that in a baby's or child's possession are frequently drooled on, dropped on the ground, covered with food, and/or otherwise in need of cleaning prior to being returned to the baby or child, said container comprising:

a compact main body configured without sharp corners and having a hollow interior, a

top portion, and a bottom portion, said main body also having a top opening configured for direct and immediate access of a large adult male hand to baby-related accessories placed within said hollow interior, and said main body further having at least one rearwardly-positioned vertically extending structural strip integral to said main body that is configured and positioned to prevent collapse of said top opening, said at least one vertically extending strip extending substantially across said main body, at least one horizontally extending structural strip integral to said main body and at a minimum substantially encircling said main body, said at least one horizontally extending strip structurally joined to said at least one vertically extending strip; with being made in part from open-weave material configured to allow air circulation through said main body and not entangle contents positioned adjacent to and adjoining said at least one horizontally extending strip and said at least one vertically extending strip, and further with said open-weave material forming a majority of said main body between said top and bottom portions thereof;

at least one strap attached to depending from said main body and selected from a group consisting of straps integral with said main body and forming a vertically extending structural strip and straps detachably connected to said main body via said at least one vertically extending strip, said at least one strap having an unattached portion and quick-release fastening means secured to said unattached portion by which said unattached portion is optionally formed into a looped configuration usable for suspended attachment of said main body to the top rail of a baby crib; and

said main body and said at least one strap being made from materials that are flexible, soft-textured, and washable so that without injury to babies and small children said at least one

strap can temporarily secure said main body to cribs and other baby-holding devices while sanitary baby-related accessories placed within said main body become immediately available to a people caring for babies and small children and needing such accessories.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11 wherein said at least one strap is repeatedly detachable from said main body.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11 wherein said main body has a back surface and further comprising at least one additional two-part fastener attached to said back surface that is configured for directly securing said back surface to a support surface.

14. (Original) The device of claim 11 further comprising markings on said main body that are selected from a group consisting of informational markings and design markings.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for making a temporary storage container for pacifiers, teething devices, and other small toys that babies and small children often drool on, drop on the ground, cover with food, and/or otherwise need cleaning prior to being returned to the child, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a quantity of flexible, soft, and washable reinforcement material, a quantity of flexible, soft, and washable open-weave material adapted to allow air circulation therethrough without entanglement of small items used for the comfort and entertainment of babies and small children, a quantity of non-open-weave material; material attachment means, and a plurality of quick-release fasteners;

using said ~~reinforcement material~~ quantity of non-open-weave material, said open-weave material, and said material attachment means to create a substantially cylindrical main body having a hollow interior, no sharp corners, and a top opening with a minimum circumference

configured to allow insertion therethrough of a large adult male hand, while at the same time creating said main body with at least one rearwardly-positioned vertically extending structural strip integral to said main body that is configured and positioned to prevent collapse of said top opening, and further with said at least one vertically extending strip extending substantially across said main body, concomitantly creating said main body with at least one horizontally extending structural strip integral to said main body and at a minimum substantially encircling said main body, and further with said at least one horizontally extending strip structurally joined to said at least one vertically extending strip; and also creating said main body with open-weave material positioned adjacent to and adjoining said at least one horizontally extending strip and said at least one vertically extending strip, and further with said open-weave material forming a majority of said main body so that said top opening maintains its integrity during use for convenient user access to any contents stored within said main body.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said quick-release fasteners are selected from a group consisting of adhesives, glues, bonding agents, snaps, two-part fasteners, hook-and-pile fasteners, and heat-activated bonding substances, and further comprising a step of securing at least a portion of said quick-release fasteners to said ~~main body~~ at least one vertically extending strip in a position where they are adapted to temporarily and securely attach said main body to a supporting structure.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of providing marking means, and using said marking means to create informational markings on said ~~reinforcement material~~ main body.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of

making at least one strap from said ~~reinforcement material~~ non-open-weave material and attaching said at least one strap to said ~~main body~~ at least one vertically extending strip.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further comprising a step of providing at least one quick-release two-part fastener and a step of securing said at least one quick-release two-part fastener between said ~~main body~~ at least one vertically extending strip and said strap so that said strap is repeatedly detachable.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of ~~making from said reinforcement material and incorporating into said main body additional components selected from a group consisting of vertically extending strips and horizontally extending strips~~ providing filament adapted for topstitching use and using said filament to create topstitching selected from a group consisting of top stitching on straps and top stitching on said main body.

MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION – with added language underlined and deleted language having strike-through markings

First paragraph of the Detailed Description:

Fig. 1 shows the most preferred embodiment 2 of the present invention having a substantially cylindrical main body 6 with two straps 4 extending upwardly beyond the rear perimeter edge of said main body 6. Although the number and placement of straps 4 in most preferred embodiment 2 is not critical, for convenience of use it is preferred that two straps 4 be used and that they be connected to the rear outside surface of main body 6. Also, straps 4 can be permanently or detachably connected to main body 6. If straps 4 are made removable, one or more two-part quick-release fasteners, such as but not limited to the pile fasteners 20a shown in Fig. 6, could be attached to the central portion of main body 6 under straps 4, where they would remain hidden and unusable while straps 4 are in place. Then, once straps 4 are removed, the newly uncovered fasteners 20a are available for attaching main body 6 directly to one or more hook fasteners 20b that have been previously secured to a wall, or other flat, smooth, fabric covered, or even arcuate surface (not shown). One example of a fabric-covered surface that could be used for support of main body 6 by direct attachment of two-part quick-release fasteners 20a and 20b is the front outside surface of a diaper bag. One or more complementary fasteners could be stitched or otherwise secured to the diaper bag so that when it is positioned close to a child, such as when it might be supported in a restaurant by a chair, main body 6 is close at hand to promptly provide replacement pacifiers and/or toys as needed to keep the child entertained and/or calm. When straps 4 are again connected to main body 6, they can be alternatively used to support main body 6, with the conversion between strap 4 support and

direct attachment of main body 6 by quick-release fasteners such as 20a and 20b being nearly instantaneous and infinitely repeatable. Although pile fasteners 20a and hook fasteners 20b are individually shown in the accompanying illustrations and are meant to form a two-part fastener 20, no illustration shows them in combined form as a two-part hook-and-pile fastener that is marked solely by the number 20. However, the combination is mentioned at least once hereinafter in the disclosure as fastener or fasteners 20. Individual references to pile fastener 20a and hook fastener 20b appear many times in the ensuing description. Fig. 1 also shows the distal end of each strap 4 being formed into a looped configuration 24. Although the distal ends of straps 4 form a rearwardly oriented looped configuration, 24 and such orientation is preferred, in the alternative it is also contemplated for the distal ends of straps 4 to form the looped configuration 24 by being secured to the front surface of straps 4. As can be seen in Figs. 4 and 5 but not limited thereto, it is contemplated for a two-part quick-release fastener, such as hook-and-pile fasteners 20a and 20b, to be used to securely and indefinitely hold the distal ends of straps 4 in their looped configurations 24 until deliberately released, so that the looped configurations 24 of one or both straps 4 can be used to suspend main body 6 and any lightweight contents (not shown) therein from a nearby and conveniently located support surface, such as but not limited to the top rail of a crib as shown in Fig. 2, or although not shown, in the alternative to a high chair, baby changing table, nearby wall surface, swing, baby play yard, and the like. The use of quick-release fasteners such as 20a and 20b to form looped configurations 24 shown in Fig. 1 is not critical, but preferred as they permit a user to rapidly and repeatedly move main body 6 from one location to another as the child (not shown) needing the contents stored within main body 6 is similarly moved. A temporary rather than permanent

formation of looped configurations 24 is critical in the distal end of each strap 4 used, since it is contemplated for main body 6 and straps 4 to be periodically removed from their position of use for cleaning so that the interior surfaces of main body 6 can be maintained in a sanitary condition for storage of clean baby items (not shown), such as but not limited to pacifiers, small toys, and teething devices. It is contemplated for cleaning to include hand or machine laundering, as well as hand or machine drying. In embodiments where straps are detachably secured to main body 6, the stitching 12 near the upper and lower ends of main body 6 can be used to assist in the attachment of straps 4 to main body 6. Also, the configuration of straps 4 is not limited to that shown in Fig. 1. Alternative examples of strap 4 configuration could include straps 4 that are longer or shorter than the straps 4 shown in Fig. 1. Further, the number of straps 4 used could be increased or decreased beyond that shown in Fig. 1, although the spaced-apart parallel configuration of two straps 4 shown in Fig. 1 is most preferred. In addition, two or more straps 4 could be anchored from a single attachment point centered on or near to the upper edge of main body 6 between the two straps 4 shown in Fig. 1. A single attachment point would result in a V-shaped configuration of straps 4. Fig. 1 also shows two vertically extending reinforcement strips 16 as structural a part of main body 6. Although two vertically extending strips 16 are preferred, the number of vertically extending strips 16 is not critical. Thus, unless used for decorative contrast, the number of vertically extending strips 16 should not exceed that which provides structural benefit so as not to place structural integrity at risk and/or substantially increase manufacturing cost. Further, although the use of one vertically extending strip would be possible, unless it is wider than the one shown in Fig. 1, supporting main body 6 by only one vertically extending strip 16 might not allow upper opening 26 to remain in the

preferable non-collapsed state shown in Fig.1. Thus, the number and width of the strips 16 used in the present invention should be determined by the combination of number and width needed to strengthen the adjacent open-weave material 28, without being so numerous and wide as to prevent air circulation through the interior of main body 6 and/or add labor or material cost to the present invention without also adding appropriate benefit. Fig. 1 also shows main body 6 being made substantially from open-weave material and having a bottom surface 8, made from non-mesh/non-open-weave material. Although Fig. 1 shows open-weave material 28 having uniformly spaced openings, it is not critical for the open-weave material 28 used for main body 6 to be a mesh fabric with uniform openings. The only requirement for the openings in open-weave material 28 is that they be sufficiently small to contain the objects intended for storage within main body 6 and allow easy retrieval of such objects without entanglement. Further, although preferred embodiment 2 would have a bottom surface 8 made from non-mesh/non-open-weave material for the strength and stability that it would add to main body 6, alternative embodiments of the present invention could have a bottom surface 8 [[to be]] made from mesh or other open-weave material 28. Fig. 1 shows bottom surface 8 being secured at least in part to the remainder of main body 6 by stitching 12. It is not clear from the illustration in Fig. 1 whether stitching 12 provides the main means of attaching bottom surface 8 to the portion of main body 6 immediately above it, or whether stitching 12 merely provides reinforcement as "top stitching". Any reinforcement provided by "top stitching" would add to the durability of main body 6 so that it can sustain repeated cleaning without premature fraying of fabric edges, component separation, and/or other forms of deterioration. Use of stitching 12 as reinforcement of main body 6, to increase the amount of weight it could support, would be a

secondary consideration as most of the contents (not shown) anticipated for storage in the hollow interior of main body 6 are light in weight, such as pacifiers, teething devices, and the type of soft, small, and lightweight toy anticipated for infant and small child use. Even if main body 6 is later used when the child is two or three years older, it is contemplated that main body 6 would hold lightweight objects, such as but not limited to doll accessories, transformer masks and/or weapons and other accessories, game pieces and/or multiple pairs of dice, an assortment of hair accessories to include barrettes and clips, sunglasses, small tools for assembly and disassembly of miniature skateboards and other similar toys intended for hand manipulation and/or display, an assortment of the small toys available from fast food restaurants, and the like. Although not shown, stitching 12 could be added to straps 4, vertically extending strips 16 for decorative accent and/or reinforcement to enhance durability and allow it to maintain its original shape after repeated cleaning and use. Such stitching 12 could be positioned around the perimeter, longitudinally in rows, laterally in rows, diagonally, in geometric patterns or other design configurations, and/or any other pattern or design that fulfills the manufacturer's intended structural or design purpose. The thread used for stitching 12 can be any color, so that it matches the color of straps 4 and vertically extending strips 16 or in the alternative provides a color contrast thereto. Fig. 1 further shows a horizontally extending strip 10 made from non-mesh/non-open-weave material that provides reinforcement for the adjacent open-weave/mesh material 28 and overall strength for main body 6. Strip 10 also helps to support main body 6 in a position that allows top opening 26 to remain in a substantially opened position during use for quick and easy insertion therethrough of an adult hand (not shown) for fast retrieval of contents stored within the hollow interior of main body 6. At a minimum, it is preferred that the

circumference of top opening 26 is sized to allow prompt access to the contents of main body 6 by a large adult male hand. Although it is contemplated that strip 10 could completely encircle main body 6, Fig. 6 shows horizontally extending strip 10 in the most preferred embodiment 2 not extending between vertically extending strips 16. Further, while Fig. 1 shows strip 10 positioned in the bottom portion of the upper half of main body 6, such positioning is not critical and if only one horizontally extending strip 10 is present, it is contemplated only that it be positioned somewhere centrally between top opening 26 and bottom surface 8. Also, the number and width of horizontally extending strips 10 are not critical, and in place of the one strip 10 shown in Fig. 1, two or more horizontally extending strips 10 of similar or different width dimension than shown in Fig. 1 could be used as a part of main body 6. In addition to material and labor cost, as well as structural integrity, other limitations on the number and width of strips 10 used is the need for some open-weave material 28 between them for air circulation and content visibility. Thus, it is generally preferred for the present invention to contain a substantial amount of a netting, mesh, or other open-weave material 28. In addition, as shown in Fig. 1, horizontally extending strip 10 provides a surface upon which informational and design markings 14 can be placed. Information and design markings 14 can be made in any color or colors that cause it to be distinguishable from strip 10. Baby accessories typically are made in pastel colors. Therefore, the words and decorative flourishes displayed in Fig.1 as a part of informational markings 14 could all be the same color, or a mix of different colors. In addition to the word ~~'BINKIE BUCKET'~~ 'BINKY BUCKET' displayed in Fig.1, or as an alternative thereto, informational and design markings 14 can contain the baby's name, images of objects familiar to a baby, geometric shapes, animal outlines, decorative embroidery,

alphanumeric markings, and/or a combination thereof. Further, although main body 6 can be made in different sizes, it is contemplated for the hollow interior of main body 6 in preferred embodiment 2 to hold approximately a dozen or so pacifiers, several teething devices, and/or small soft baby toys (not shown).

REMARKS

On pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected the applicant's originally submitted claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, and 16 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by US Patent 4,548,375 to Moss. The applicant believes that her invention is different from Moss in important ways and identifies those reasons below. The Examiner has cited the Moss invention as a flexible, washable, and soft textured container for temporary storage of items to comfort and entertain babies and small children, with its container being made in part from open weave material. However, the Moss invention is also expandable, and on column 2, line 2 the inventor suggests that it could be made from knitted fabric. Knitted fabric would not provide adequate air circulation for the present invention. Instead, the main body of the applicant's invention is not expandable or stretchable, instead having structural components that are configured to keep its top opening from collapsing for rapid entry of a hand for the prompt retrieval of an item to comfort or entertain a baby or small child. Fig. 4 in the Moss disclosure does not show a structure that permits the same rapid one-handed retrieval of contents. The expandable Moss sleeve and its comparatively small upper opening when the sleeve is expanded, does not provide the same advantage as the present invention. It would take two hands to remove the tea cup in Fig. 4 from the expanded Moss invention. Further, the Moss invention does not have a vertically extending structural strip configured for maintaining its top opening in a non-collapsing configuration, or at least one horizontally extending structural strip that substantially encircles it. Thus, since the structure of the present invention as defined in the amended claims herein is different from the Moss invention and not taught by it alone or in combination with the other prior art, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, and 16 on page 4 of the first Office Action be withdrawn.

On pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has also rejected the applicant's originally submitted claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 11 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by US

Patent Application 2002/0148868 to Dion-Bildstein et al. The Dion-Bildstein invention has a top ring, a vessel with a crown connected to the ring, straps connected to the ring, and attachment means at the ends of the straps to make them encircle a support. The applicant's invention is different from Dion-Bildstein invention in that the Dion-Bildstein does not teach vertically extending structural strips, straps attached to the vertically extending strips, or horizontally extending structural strips centrally between top and bottom portions. Thus, since the structure of the present invention as defined in the amended claims herein is different from the Dion-Bildstein invention and not taught by it alone or in combination with the other prior art, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 11 on page 5 of the first Office Action be withdrawn.

On pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner has also rejected the applicant's originally submitted claims 3, 4 and 11-13 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Moss in view of US Patent 6,286,798 to Chun, which is used to teach a detachable strap that can be formed into a loop with quick-release fasteners. Chun is also used to teach a vertically extending non-open-weave material strip having a fastener part attached to it. However, as stated above, the Moss invention is different from the present invention in that the Moss sleeve is expandable while the present invention main body is not stretchable. Further, the combination of Moss and Chun do not teach the combination of structural horizontally and vertically strips that are adjoining and configured to maintain the top opening in a non-collapsed configuration, with the horizontally extending strip centrally between top and bottom portions, and a top portion made from non-open-weave materials. Thus, since the structure of the present invention as defined in the amended claims herein is different from the Moss invention and not taught by it or the combination of Moss and Chun, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 3, 4, and 11-13 on page 7 of the first Office Action be withdrawn.

On pages 8 and 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner has also rejected the applicant's

originally submitted claims 3, 5, 12, 15, 16, and 18-20 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dion-Bildstein in view of US Patent 6,286,798 to Chun, wherein Chun teaches a detachable strap, quick-release fasteners, and a vertically extending strip. For the same reasons given above, the applicant argues that her invention is different from Dion-Bildstein and that the combination of Dion-Bildstein and Chun does not teach the same structure of the present invention that allows it to maintain a non-collapsed top opening for easy access to and prompt retrieval of contents, while at the same time allowing for adequate air circulation and non-tangling engagement of the main body's open-weave material with its contents. Thus, since the structure of the present invention as defined in the amended claims herein is different from the Dion-Bildstein invention and not taught by it or the combination of Dion-Bildstein and Chun, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 3, 5, 12, 15, 16, and 18-20 on page 9 of the first Office Action be withdrawn.

On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner has also rejected the applicant's originally submitted claims 7 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Moss in view of US Patent 2,705,517 to Elsas, which is used to teach the placement of markings on a mesh bag. The Elsas invention secures a legible printing surface to the inside surface of a mesh bag to solve the problem of encircling paper bands applied to the outer surface of an open mesh bag that frequently become scuffed, soiled, marred, and thereby present an unsatisfactory appearance. Elsas does not teach a horizontally extending structural strip that adjoins at least one vertically extending structural strip which together are jointly configured, sized, and positioned to maintain the non-collapse of a top opening. Thus, since the structure of the present invention as defined in the amended claims herein is different from the Moss invention and not taught by it or the combination of Moss and Elsas, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 17 on page 9 of the first Office Action be withdrawn.

On pages 9 and 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner has also rejected the applicant's

originally submitted claims 9 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dion-Bildstein in view of US Patent 2,705,517 to Elsas. As mentioned above, Elsas does not teach a horizontally extending structural strip that adjoins at least one vertically extending structural strip and which are jointly configured, sized, and positioned to maintain the non-collapse of a top opening. Thus, since the structure of the present invention as defined in the amended claims herein is different from the Dion-Bildstein invention and not taught by it or the combination of Dion-Bildstein and Elsas, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 9 and 14 on page 10 of the first Office Action be withdrawn.

Since the applicant herein has now amended her claims to disclose an invention that she believes is distinguishable from the cited prior art without adding new matter, she respectfully requests that her amended claims 1-20 now be reviewed for patentability and allowed.

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